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operation on your petitioners. Thus every Roman Catholic subject of his majesty, is forced below his fair line in society, and the general body is a marked and insulated cast.

Yet the Roman Catholics form more than one fourth of the whole mass of the subjects of the united empire. Whatever there is of genius, of talent, or of energy among them, is absolutely lost for public use; and this at a time when the united empire is engaged in a conflict formidable beyond example, and it therefore seems important, if not essential to her preservation, that she could call into action, without qualification, or limit, or any religious test, or declaration, the genius, talents, and energies of all her subjects.

It is true, that your petitioners profess some religious principles which are not professed by the established church, and to this, and to this only, their refusal of certain tests, oaths, and declarations is owing, which subjects them to the pains and disabilities they complain of, but none of the principles, which occasion their refusal, affects their moral, civil, or political integrity; and your petitioners humbly submit to this honourable house, that no principle which leaves moral or political integrity unimpaired, is a proper object of religious persecution; besides, the whole creed of your petitioners was once the creed of the three kingdoms; it is the actual creed of four-fifths of Ireland, and of much the greater part of Europe. It was the creed of those who founded British liberty at Runnymede, who conquered at Cressy, Poitiers, and Agincourt; among those who repelled and annihilated the Spanish Armada, none bore a nobler part than those by whom this creed was professed. In all these achievements, in every other scene, in which the ancient valour or ancient wisdom of this country has been displayed, the ancestors or several of your petitioners have been distinguished, their creed did not lessen their zeal for their king and country—it does not lessen that of their descendants.

Every disloyal or immoral principle which malice or credulity has imputed to them, your petitioners have solemnly and repeatedly disclaimed. They believe there does not now exist an honourable man who imputes these principles to them; they have sworn to be faithful and bear true allegiance to his majesty, and have acted up to their professions; they most confidently appeal to this honourable house, and to the whole empire, whether in loyalty to

his majesty, attachment to the constitution, or zeal for their country's good they are not equal, and are not known and acknowledged to be equal to his majesty's other subjects.

Therefore, conscious of the truth of these representations, and with the most perfect reliance on the wisdom and justice of your honourable house,

Your petitioners humbly pray for a total repeal of every test, oath, declaration, or provision, which has the effect of subjecting your petitioners to any penalty or disability whatsoever, on account of their religious principles.

#### PETITION OF THE CATHOLICS OF IRELAND.

(PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS)  
*To the honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.*

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed on behalf of ourselves and of others his majesty's subjects, professing the Roman Catholic Religion in Ireland, humbly beg leave to represent to this honourable house,

"That we, your petitioners, did in the years 1805 and 1808, humbly petition this honourable house, praying the total abolition of the penal laws which aggrieve the Catholics of Ireland.

"We now feel ourselves obliged in justice to ourselves, our families, and our country once more to solicit the attention of this honourable house to the subject of our said petition.

"We state that the Roman Catholics constitute the most numerous and increasing portion of the inhabitants of Ireland; comprising an immense majority of the manufacturing, trading and agricultural interests, and amounting to at least four-fifths of the Irish population, that they contribute largely to the exigencies of their country, civil and military, that they pay the far greater part of the public and local taxes, that they supply the armies and navies of this empire with upwards of one-third part in number of the soldiers and sailors employed in the public service, and that notwithstanding heavy discouragements, they form the principal constituent part of the strength, wealth and industry of Ireland.

"Yet such is the grievous operation of the penal laws of which we complain, that the Roman Catholics are thereby not only set apart from their fellow subjects, as aliens in their native land, but are ignominiously and rigorously proscribed from almost all situations of public trust, honour or emolument, including every public function and department, from the

houses of legislature down to the most petty corporations.

"We state that whenever the labour of public duty is to be exacted and enforced, the Catholic is sought out and selected;—where honour or rewards are to be dispensed, he is neglected and contemned.

"Where the military and naval strength of the empire is to be recruited, the Catholics are eagerly solicited, gay compelled to bear at least their full share in the perils of warfare and in lowest ranks, but when preferment and promotion (the dear and legitimate prize of successful valour) are to be distributed as rewards of merit, no laurels are destined to grace a Catholic's brow, or fit the wearer for command.

"We state thus generally the grievous condition of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, occasioned solely by the fatal influence and operation of the penal laws, and though we forbear to enter into greater detail, yet we do not the less trust to the influence of reason and justice (which eventually must prevail) for effecting a full and deliberate inquiry into our grievances, and accomplishing our effectual relief.

"We do beg leave however, most solemnly to press upon the attention of this honourable house, the imminent public dangers which necessarily result from so inverted an order of things, and so vicious and unnatural a system of legislation, a system which has long been the reproach of this nation, and is unparalleled throughout modern Christendom.

"And we state it as our fixed opinion, that to restore to the Catholics of Ireland, a full, equal, and unqualified participation of the benefits of the laws and constitution of England, and to withdraw all the privations, restrictions and vexatious distinctions, which oppress, injure, and afflict them in their country, is now become a measure, not merely expedient but absolutely necessary, not only a debt of right due to a complaining people; but, perhaps, the last remaining resource of this empire, in the preservation of which we take so deep an interest.

"We therefore pray this honourable house to take into their most serious consideration, the nature extent, and operation of the aforesaid penal laws, and by repealing the same altogether, to restore to the Roman Catholics of Ireland those

liberties so long withheld, and their due share in that constitution, which they in common with their fellow subjects of every other description contribute by taxes, arms, and industry to sustain and defend.

"And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

#### RESOLUTIONS OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

At a meeting of the Roman Catholic Prelates, assembled in Dublin, on the 24th instant, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1. Resolved, That it is the undoubted and exclusive right of Roman Catholic Bishops to discuss and decide on all matters appertaining to the doctrine and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Resolved, That we do hereby confirm and declare our unaltered adherence to the resolutions unanimously entered into at our last general meeting, on the 14th September 1808.

3. Resolved, That we are convinced that the oath of allegiance framed and proposed by the legislature itself, and taken by us, is not only adequate security for our loyalty, but that we know of no stronger pledge that we can possibly give.

4. Resolved, That having disclaimed upon oath all right in the pope, or any other foreign potentate, to interfere in the temporal concerns of the kingdom, an adherence to the practice observed in the appointment of Irish Roman Catholic Bishops can not tend to produce an undue or mischievous exercise of any foreign influence whatsoever.

5. Resolved, That we neither seek nor desire any other earthly consideration for our spiritual ministry to our respective flocks, save what they may, from a sense of religion and duty, voluntarily afford us.

6. Resolved, That an address explanatory of these our sentiments, be prepared and directed to the Roman Catholic Clergy and Laity of Ireland, and conveying such further instruction as existing circumstances may seem to require.

The explanatory address, containing the resolutions at large, was published (by authority) on Friday March 2d, by H. Fitzpatrick, No. 4, Capel-street, Printer and Bookseller to the R. C. College of Maynooth.

### PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

#### BRITISH.

Captain Donoran, who has lately travelled 1000 leagues into the interior of justly observes; that he discover

ed no *real* savages, except the Dutch inhabitants of the frontier provinces of the colony; as also appears from the follow-